als and groups of beneficiaries of small and marginal farmers living below the poverty line;

(ii) the individuals/groups are to be assisted through subsidy by Government and term credit by financial institutions;

(iii) under the scheme 80% funds are to be borne by the Central Government and 20% by the State Governments;

(iv) the funds are allocated among the States on the basis of poverty ratios and among the districts on the basis of recommendations of the State Governments;

(v) atleast 50% of the funds have been earmarked for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes) (STs)

(vi) under the scheme, 75% subsidy is allowed for SCs STs and physically disabled groups, and 50% for the others The Monetary ceiling on the subsidy per group is Rs 40,000/- in case of individual beneficiaries, subsidy is Rs. 5,000/- per acre of land under the scheme subject to a ceiling of Rs. 12,500/- per beneficiary The gap between the project cost and admissible subsidy has to be bridged with term credit by financial institutions or SC ST/BC Finance and Development Corporation;

(vii) the scheme is implemented by District Rural Development Authorities (DRDAs)/Zila Parishads (ZPs).

(viii) the scheme has become an independent scheme with effect from 1-4-1997;

(ix) during 1996-97 Rs 90 82 crores has been released under the scheme and the allocation of funds for 1997-98 is Rs 200.00 crores.

[Translation]

Russian Assistance to India

3104 SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Russia has sanctioned a loan worth 83.50 crore dollers as assistance to India in 1992 for the purchase of the Russian military equipments

(b) if so whether India has not utilised an amount of 35 crore dollers out of the above so far;

(c) if so the reasons therefor.

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the use of remaining loan amount;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) On September 17, 1992 the Government of India and the Government of Russia signed an agreement under which the Russia extended a state credit for defence supplies to India equivalent to US dollars 830 million (83 crores). A part of this credit is still unutilised.

(c) to (f) The utilisation of the credit to finance projects under implementation and for the purchase of equipment from Russia for the Armed Forces of India is an on-going process based on India's defence priorities, a careful examination of the specific requirements of the Indian Armed Forces and regular consultations with the Russian Government to ascertain the possibility of meeting these requirements from Russia with a view to achieving the most optimal utilisation of available resources.

[English]

Appointment of Teachers

3105. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the NDMC had invited applications for the post of Assistant Teachers recently;

(b) if so the number of persons invited for the said post for written examination.

(c) whether the Government are aware that irregularities are prevailing in the final selection for the said post. and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to investigate the matter through some independent agency and if so by when and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) (a) to (d) The New Delhi Municipal Council have intimated that applications for the post of Assistant Teachers were invited through open advertisement in August, 1996. In all 18,049 eligible candidates were invited for written examination. No irregularities have been reported to New Delhi Municipal Council